



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: Conducted via Zoom and in-person @Town Hall Annex 2nd floor Conference Room:

[ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Members Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Marina Popova, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Mara Vatz, Ed Trembly; **Tree Warden:** Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden)

Guests: Sara Alfaro-Franco (ConComm Rep), Jackie Anderson, Grant Cook, Johanna Meyer;

Minutes:

1. Introduce guests and new members: Jackie Anderson, Johanna Meyer. Olivier and Marina have been appointed, and officially joined the ATC.
2. Member Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. Keith presented the various roles, and we focused on approving a new Co-Chair to replace Mary Ellen, and a new Recording Secretary. Mary Ellen nominated Steve Moore for Co-Chair. Vote was unanimous in favor; Keith was also nominated and unanimously approved, and will continue as Co-Chair for a second year. Marina was nominated to take over as Recording Secretary from Mara, and was unanimously approved.
 - b. Master Plan Update and Advisory Committee -- **was overlooked in the meeting and needs to be followed up – Keith.**
3. Review of Action Items
 - a. Mary Ellen and Keith are meeting with Mike Rademacher tomorrow.
 - b. Discussion of trees near Stop and Shop, in front of new Mass. Ave. building. Now that developer sold the property, the new owner can remove whichever trees they choose.
 - c. Adopt-a-Tree: QR codes for tags are in process, using TreesMedford tags as model.
4. February 14, 2024 ATC Minutes; approved unanimously.
5. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
 - a. Tree Bylaw Activity
 - One tree plan submitted and accepted, 11 Mohawk Rd, John Carney. Marquis Tree Service submitted plan. No trees to be removed, two oak trees to be protected in the back. Will be a teardown and rebuild.
 - b. Tree Hearings; none.
 - c. Town Projects & Maintenance Activities
 - Arlington High School (AHS) project: back side of AHS athletic fields / bike path. Original plan to connect bike path to AHS by making a switchback trail is now being completed; this will require removing some trees, starting next week. Mostly norway maple, ailanthus, buckthorn. There is not likely a plan to replant along the bike path. The soil behind the school cannot be disturbed due to

pollutants. No hearing required for these trees since they are not public street trees: they belong to the MBTA.

- Safe Passage to Schools Program: Stratton School. From Summer St., all the way up Hemlock St. to Stratton. They are proposing removing seven public shade trees, 147" total DBH. DOT must reach out to Select Board. Tim's opinion is that the trees are healthy enough to keep on the inventory. The project design is 75% complete. They will put in a tree strip as part of the project. Tim will provide more information during meeting with Keith tomorrow. **Action Item: Keith will find out more information about the project so we can weigh in as a committee.**

d. Spring Planting

- Due to weather, the 150 bare root trees will be delivered earlier than usual, end of March, planting will start first week of April. Tim has put out door hangers.
- Tim has reached out to Swifty Printing for printing of new tree literature. **Action Items: Susan and Steve will finalize tree bag tag design before Fall planting starts. Keith and Mary Ellen will send Susan pictures of the four current door hangers after March 14 meeting. Tim will send Spring planting tree species.**

e. Arbor Day Plans

- Location not decided yet. Maybe Old Burial Ground, or one of elementary schools. School trees tend to get neglected (other than at Thompson).
- Trying to choose a location where there will be community watering. **Action Item: Eliza will remind the Library to water their three new trees, planted for Arbor Day in 2023.**

6. Community Canopy Program

- a. Subcommittee Update: Have been in contact with two growers; will discuss with Tim and Mike tomorrow about getting expenditures approved. Mary Ellen proposes getting 70 trees. This year, we will do a pilot program to target tree planting in heat island areas, and use Assessors Map data to send a mailer to generate interest for planting spots. Will specifically focus on 1025 Mass. Ave. Area, where many trees were recently removed. **Action Item: Submit info re: Community Tree Canopy program to Your Arlington and to ACMI (Sara can reach out to them).**

7. Publicity

- a. Your Arlington news feature (Marina); Google group, Instagram / Facebook.
 - Ideas: Could we do a monthly contest for developers of who has saved the most trees? Highlight developers that preserve trees? Stickers?
 - Eliza has been in contact with Annika, who has put together a draft video to encourage AHS students to adopt trees. This could be adapted to put on ACMI.

8. Other Events

- a. ATC social w/ Tim March 14, 5 PM
- b. Let's Talk Trees! Meet the ATC event, March 16 10-12 PM, at the Mill Brook Cafe. **Action Item: Susan will put on Arlington List email about our Meetup.**
- c. Ecofest: Ecofest is in April; It's a three-week long event now. We could do another Meet the ATC event.

9. Tree-Related Interactions with Town

- a. Town Committees / Boards Report
 - Steve met with Joe Connelly re: Parks & Recreation Hill's Hill Community Preservation Act (CPA) Project. Public info session on March 26; will present

contractor's plan. They may have to go to CPA Committee to get approval for the pump track.

10. New Business

- a. Green Street Arlington: Susan's group advocating for a Town Meeting Warrant Article for shaded parking lots.
- b. Mystic/Charles Pollinator Pathways Talk March 12: Good turnout, ATC was one of about seven presenters, giving five-minute "lightning" presentations. Eliza spoke about our three programs that allow for residents to get involved in maintaining and expanding the Arlington tree canopy (Request a Street Tree, Adopt-a-Tree, and Community Canopy Programs).
- c. Arlington Heights Tree Question: Hardware Store. After site visit, it was clear that the hardware store is a challenging location for new trees. Tim said he will address the hazardous tree grates/stumps.

11. Review New Actions.

Adjourn: 9:15 PM

Next Meeting: April 10, 2024